

A TRIBUTE TO OFFICER SCOTT  
WERTZ

**HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today I seek to pay tribute to a true hero of Pennsylvania's 16th Congressional District, Reading Police Officer Scott Wertz.

On Sunday, August 6, 2006, Officer Wertz made the ultimate sacrifice carrying out his duties to serve and protect the people of Reading, Pa.

Officer Wertz's exemplary service is a stark reminder of the valor and honor that our public safety personnel display every single day. When danger arises, these brave men and women run to answer the call. Officer Wertz was no exception, and I honor his great courage and sacrifice.

His 9 years of dedicated service to the Reading Police Department have made the Reading community a safer place to live and work for thousands of families, and we all owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude.

On behalf of a grateful community, I offer my heartfelt condolences to his wife and two sons. They will continue to be in our thoughts and prayers.

ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
IVY BAPTIST CHURCH

**HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an institution in my hometown of Newport News. On December 1, 2006, the members of Ivy Baptist Church celebrated their 100th anniversary, and I would like to take a moment to highlight the rich history of this church and its contribution to our community.

In 1906, Rev. James Carr, along with Shaddy Clark and J.B. Peyton founded the first ancestor of the Ivy Baptist Church of today. It was called the First Baptist Church Dawson City. First Baptist Dawson was a blessing in a community plagued by crime in a city nicknamed "Blood Field." In 1915, under the leadership of Reverend Carr, the First Baptist Church Dawson City building was purchased for \$350 in cash.

Rev. Samuel Brown, the second pastor, moved the church to the 500 block of 18th Street in Newport News and renamed it the 18th Street Baptist Church.

In 1923, the church elected its third pastor, Rev. James M. Bray. After 27 years of growth, witnessing and fellowship under Reverend Bray, the church sold its building at 18th Street, and a new church was built at 1612 Ivy Avenue at the cost of \$60,000. Based on this change of location, the church was renamed Ivy Avenue Baptist Church in 1952.

In 1958, the Reverend D.L. Charity became the fourth pastor of Ivy Avenue Baptist Church. The church continued to experience substantial growth with new programs implemented by Reverend Charity, who served for 8 years.

On February 4, 1968, Rev. Dr. W. Henry Maxwell was selected as the fifth pastor of Ivy Avenue Baptist Church. Three years later, a new house of worship located at 50 Maple Avenue was purchased, and the first worship service was conducted there in February 1972. In order to maintain the heritage of the church, but to reflect the church's location change, the name was shortened from Ivy Avenue Baptist, to the Ivy Baptist we know today.

Under Reverend Maxwell, Ivy Baptist continued to flourish. A church day care center was established in 1974, and a multipurpose annex named the W. Henry Maxwell Family Life Center was opened in 1999. After 36 years of faithful service to Ivy Baptist Church, Reverend Maxwell retired.

After a year-long search, Rev. Kevin G. Swann was elected the sixth pastor of Ivy Baptist Church. The church has already experienced significant growth in membership under Reverend Swann, and I believe he will live up to the legacy left to him. Over these 100 years, pastors at Ivy have licensed nine other pastors, and ordained nine pastors to the ministry. The day care program is popular throughout the community, and the Family Life Center is a community asset under constant demand as a venue for various church, civic and social programs.

I would like to once again congratulate Reverend Swann and the members of Ivy Baptist on their centennial and I wish them another century of continued service to their community.

MOUNT SINAI MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church for 50 years of service and involvement in the Fort Worth Community. Mount Sinai is located in the 26th District of Texas.

Since opening its doors in 1956, Mount Sinai has encouraged the ministry, fellowship, and outreach of its members. Under the faithful guidance of Bishop B.C. McPherson II, Mount Sinai has flourished as a cornerstone of worship in our community.

The event will be celebrated with a Mass Choir Musical, and a service the following day by guest Pastor Carl Woodard. Current and former Mount Sinai members and prominent members of the community will be on hand to celebrate the anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent this congregation. I congratulate the Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church as they celebrate 50 proud years of commitment to ministry, and look forward to many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR ARTHUR LEE

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Pastor Arthur Lee of the Rock of

Asia Missionary Baptist Church. Pastor Lee and his pastoral staff will be honored by the congregation at a celebration on December 10th in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

After serving in the United States Army from 1963 to 1975, Pastor Lee was honorably discharged and worked as an offshore oil rigger in Singapore. He moved to Michigan in 1986 and served as a deacon at 1st Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church. He became an assistant pastor acting together with his brother, Pastor Henderson Lee. Arthur Lee was called to the ministry in 1990 and was ordained at 1st Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church in 1993.

He became the pastor of Rock of Asia Missionary Baptist Church and has faithfully served the congregation for the past 12 years. In addition to Sunday morning worship services, Pastor Lee also holds Sunday School and a Wednesday Bible Class. In keeping with the church's motto, 2nd Corinthians 5:7 "We walk by faith, not by sight," the congregation goes out once a month and witnesses to the community. They distribute food to the needy at the holidays. During the past 12 years the congregation has grown from 8 members to 80 members. Pastor Lee organized the drive to extend the sanctuary and install new pews to accommodate the growing number of faithful. During this time Pastor Lee also worked at MTA, and was a loving husband and father. He retired from MTA in 2001 to assume fulltime pastoral duties.

Taking his ministry beyond the church walls, Pastor Lee is active in several local and national groups. He has served with Concerned Pastors for Social Action since 1993 and is a member of Concerned Pastors of Genesee County. For 20 years he has served as a chaplain at Hurley Medical Center and he took on the role of chaplain at Genesys Hospice 18 months ago. He is the spiritual coach for Hamady High School Athletic Department. As a veteran, Pastor Lee understands the problems of veterans in our community and has worked for the past 7 years tending to the spiritual needs of the disabled veterans at the DVA Post 122. Pastor Lee has attended Mott Community College and continues to find new ways to improve his ministry. He recently completed a series of enrichment classes sponsored by Genesys Health Systems.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Pastor Arthur Lee, his pastoral staff and his congregation for 12 years of consecrated service to Our Lord, Jesus Christ. I wish them the best as they continue to spread the Gospel through the Flint area.

TRIBUTE TO FIRE CHIEF WILLIAM  
J. (BILL) MCCAMMON

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the First Chief of the Alameda County Fire Department, Bill McCammon. Chief McCammon is retiring after 28 years of exemplary service to the County of Alameda, California.

The district and contract service areas that Chief McCammon serves are approximately 460 square miles with a population of over

250,000. He was born and raised in Oakland, California and received a B.S. degree in Agricultural Science and Management from the University of California at Davis.

After completing his education, he sought a career in the fire service working first for the Dublin San Ramon Services District Fire Department where he spent two years before moving to the San Leandro, California Fire Department. During his fourteen years in San Leandro, he held the ranks of Firefighter, Engineer, Captain, Battalion Chief, and Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal prior to becoming the Fire Chief.

When Alameda County consolidated its incorporated fire protection responsibilities into the Alameda County Fire Department, McCammon became the first Fire Chief of the newly formed department in 1993. The Department has doubled in size since 1993 with the addition of contracts for service with several local cities and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

Chief McCammon has introduced and implemented programs that include retrofitting and expansion of the public buildings and fire stations as well as new construction of several fire stations. He also implemented a water rescue, heavy rescue and HazMat Response Team that provides mutual aid to the entire County of Alameda and served as a key negotiator representing Alameda County for an ambulance contract for citywide services.

An advocate of regionalization, Chief McCammon fostered and promoted the idea of creating a regional fire dispatch center within the County. Since its creation in 1999, six jurisdictions receive dispatch services from the center at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, with countywide fire and emergency medical services mutual aid coordinated through the center.

Chief McCammon's list of involvement addressing fire and emergency medical services issues at the local, state and national levels is impressive. He has served on numerous boards, commissions and associations, and has been appointed by several governors for leadership positions to address incident management, homeland security, fire service and other issues relevant to his expertise.

On January 5, 2007, Fire Chief Bill McCammon's friends and family will gather at the Castlewood Country Club in Pleasanton, California to honor his achievements in his profession, to thank him for his years of dedicated service and to wish him well on his retirement. I am honored to recognize him on his special occasion.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO ED GUTHRIE

##### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ed Guthrie for his exemplary work with Opportunity Village, a laudable organization that provides vocational training and advocacy for the disabled.

Under Ed's leadership, Opportunity Village has improved the lives of hundreds of people with severe disabilities and their families. Opportunity Village has grown to become one of the top 5 custodial firms in southern Nevada.

Opportunity Village serves 500,000 meals each year to the servicemen at Nellis AFB and owns the 2nd largest document destruction firm in Las Vegas. Ed has also developed a number of leading edge rehabilitation programs during the last 10 years, including the Job Discovery program, the P.R.I.D.E. program and a down payment assistance program to assist people with disabilities to purchase their own homes.

In addition to his work with Opportunity Village, Ed also serves as the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the National Industries for the Severely Handicapped (NISH). Prior to joining NISH, Ed was the Western Region representative of the National Council of Work Centers and represented the 100+ community rehabilitation programs in Nevada, California, Hawaii, Arizona, and Utah for 6 years. Ed has also served the State of Nevada on the Nevada Governor's Council for Rehabilitation and Employment of People with Disabilities and served as Chair of the Nevada Rates Task Force.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Ed Guthrie. His hard work on behalf of Nevada's disabled population and their families is commendable. I applaud his efforts and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF LOREE SOGGS

##### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the contributions of Mr. Loree Soggs to both Cleveland and Ohio. Mr. Soggs has been a member of and advocate for unions since he entered the workforce over 40 years ago. He has also serves the community diligently through his extensive civic participation.

Mr. Soggs entered his union as an operating engineer, and he has served his IUOE Local 18 as a business agent, apprenticeship coordinator, steward director, officer and fringe benefit fund trustee. In 1994, Mr. Soggs was elected to the office of executive secretary for Cleveland's Building and Construction Trades Council, being the first operating engineer to hold this office in the council's history. He has successfully negotiated numerous contracts fighting for the betterment of working men and women within the community. He further supports the realm of labor by serving as president of the North Shore Federation of Labor, vice president of the Ohio State Building and Construction Trades Council, executive director of the Northern Ohio Building Trades Real Estate Investment Program, trustee of the Union Construction Industry Partnership, and serves as a board member on four other labor related organizations.

The civic realm has benefited equally from Mr. Soggs' years of dedicated work. As an advocate for senior citizens, he strives to improve the quality of life of the elderly, specifically focusing on housing efforts. He is very politically involved, serving on the executive committee of the Cuyahoga Democratic Party and as a board member of the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections. Due to his civic dedication, Mr. Soggs is being honored by the State of Israel Bonds for his values and ideals

rooted in democracy, and the inalienable rights of working men and women.

Mr. Soggs' work is rooted in his bachelor of arts degree from Defiance College, as well as the support from his wife, Barbara, and their five children.

Mr. Speaker and my fellow colleagues, please join me in celebration of the efforts of Mr. Loree Soggs to the labor and civic communities in Ohio. His contributions have not gone unnoticed, and will surely multiply and reach new levels of excellence in the upcoming years.

#### HONORING MR. TIMOTHY NECKERS

##### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Timothy Neckers for his years of service as the French Creek Town Supervisor. Mr. Neckers served his community well during his tenure in office.

Public service is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Neckers traveled that path with his head held high and a smile on his face throughout his tenure. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the constituents of French Creek.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong and dedicated public servants with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Neckers is one of those people and that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor him today.

#### MINERAL WELLS VETERANS DAY PROGRAM

##### HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and commend an innovative partnership between the Mineral Wells, Texas Independent School District and several veterans' organizations in that community. For each of the past 24 years, citizens of Mineral Wells have come together on Veterans Day to honor those who have served our Nation in the military with a special "Day of Remembrance" program.

Every year, the program draws over 3,700 youth, community leaders, and area residents to pay tribute to those who embody the American spirit. Working together as a community has helped promote pride and patriotism among students while honoring veterans. Members of the American Legion Post 75, the Sons of the Legion Squadron 75, and Farris Anderson Unit 75 of American Legion Auxiliary, Mineral Wells, along with school leaders and students help plan and participate in an event that features a parade, music, displays of military power, and much camaraderie among generations.

Throughout our history, men and women have answered the call of a Nation in need, and on Veterans Day, we are especially mindful of their service, sacrifice, and that of their